

Remember, consider the following when selecting outdoor furnishings:

- _____ Comfort
- _____ Convenience
- _____ Durability
- _____ Portability
- _____ Stability
- _____ Quality construction
- _____ Design
- _____ Care requirements

Buy furnishings made by reputable manufacturers and sold by reputable dealers. Read hang tags and labels on the furnishings and ask questions about guarantees.

Because of increased standardization, the home has become a refuge. In the home family members can express themselves as individuals. However, the current economic situation has caused consumers to accept less interior space. This has increased the importance of utilizing surrounding exterior space. Increased leisure time has also increased the use of outdoor living spaces. Therefore, a functional, well furnished outdoor living area will complement today's living.

The A, B, C's of Cleaning Materials

CLEANING a modern home is simple with efficient materials and techniques. What is needed is greater knowledge about the composition, finish of the surface to be cleaned, soil, and supplies and equipment that operate most effectively.

Selecting effective cleaning materials for the home can be difficult. Advertising claims of superior cleaning ability, ease, and carefree use of products and equipment for a sparkling clean house often are confusing. How does the consumer know the product best suited for the job from the myriad offerings in the marketplace?

Many cleaning products on the market today are basic ingredients that are premixed, perfumed and packaged in attractive boxes, cans, bottles or jars.

Common basic ingredients are water, alkalis, soaps or detergents, acids, abrasives, bleaches, sanitizers and solvents. Understanding the performance of these ingredients can aid in your selection.

Water is one of the most effective cleaning aids known to man. Soft water, warm or hot with mild soap or detergent, cleans porcelain, painted woodwork and other washable surfaces well. Hard water does not work well with soap because the hardness minerals form curds. Using a water softener can break down these minerals.

Mild detergent is especially effective in cleaning where grease and cooking fumes have collected on walls, woodwork and floors. It can also be used to make an inexpensive shampoo for rugs or upholstery. Whip $\frac{1}{4}$ cup mild detergent with 1 pint warm water until it makes a stiff foam.

Heavy duty detergent is very alkaline. It is not suitable for cleaning linoleum or painted surfaces, but it is excellent for cleaning the toilet bowl and soaking burner parts of the gas range, and for broiler pans and other greasy or oily surfaces.

Most liquid all-purpose cleaners have soap and/or detergent with water as the main ingredient. Some have ammonia, pine oil, lysol or other cleaning agents. If you study the label carefully, you will find many of the same ingredients as those listed on detergent labels.

Liquid cleaners often come in spray or aerosol containers. In aerosol cans, the product is mixed with a propellant making it foam and bubble.

Most all-purpose cleaners are alkaline and cut grease and dirt easily. They are safe for cleaning porcelain, painted surfaces, ceramic tile and some resilient floors.

Some liquid cleaners may have an acid ingredient to cut hard water spots, soap buildup and rust.

Granular or powdered all-purpose cleaners may list ingredients, such as

trisodium phosphate (TSP), and water-softening agents. Trisodium phosphate sometimes is used to clean and rough-up a wooden surface before repainting.

Lye is the main ingredient of many oven cleaners. This highly toxic alkali, often called caustic soda, usually does a good job of removing burned-on grease or soil. Avoid breathing the fumes or getting the lye on chromium and aluminum parts or on the hands. Some oven cleaners contain ammonia, which also loosens burned-on grease and soil. It is toxic in strengths of 5 percent or more.

It's cheaper and safer to clean your range with ammonia and detergent.

Window and glass cleaners with ammonia are good for cleaning greasy cooking fumes that collect on glass surfaces. You can make an effective cleaner with 4 tablespoons of ammonia to 1 quart of warm water.

Cleaners for washing outside windows may have a mild acid base with detergent. Mix 2 tablespoons vinegar to 1 quart of warm water to remove water spots. Add a little detergent if needed.

Selecting the right drain cleaner depends on what is causing the clog and the location of the drain.

For clogged kitchen drains try a non-caustic liquid cleaner first, since it is basically a grease solvent. If it is not effective, try a caustic granular type which contains a high percentage of caustic soda or potash that will dissolve grease or hair. Most caustic cleaners cannot be used in garbage disposers.

For the bathroom drain, where hair may have caused the clog, use a caustic liquid. If it fails, try caustic granules.

Follow directions carefully and with caution. Caustic cleaners can ruin cabinet tops, aluminum trim, walls and floors, and they can burn body tissue. For a sluggish drain, try using $\frac{1}{2}$ pound washing soda to 2 cups boiling water.

Toilet bowl cleaners often have an acid base for removing discoloration in the vitreous china bowl. These are toxic and should be used with caution. For a safer way, scrub the toilet bowl with $\frac{1}{4}$ cup detergent.

Abrasives clean by friction. Scouring powders and pads, sandpaper, meshes of metal, plastic or nylon, steel wool, pumice and whiting are common abrasives.

Harsh abrasives, such as scouring powder, will gradually cause damage by scratching the glossy finish on painted surfaces, porcelain enamel or plastics. Once the surface is dull, it will soil faster and stain.

Use the mildest or finest abrasive possible to avoid marring the surface to be cleaned.

Feel the abrasive between your fingers to judge its harshness. Plastic or nylon mesh, cream silver polish and whiting are examples of mild abrasives.

Make your own porcelain cleaner by using 4 parts whiting and 1 part soap jelly.

To make soap jelly, shave 1 cup bar soap; dissolve it in 1 quart boiling water. When cool, store in a jar. Use as a multi-purpose soap cleaner.

Chlorine bleach is an alkali and will damage many surfaces if used without dilution with water. It is an effective sanitizer if used according to directions. Some products claim to "disinfect or sanitize" that do not really kill bacteria.

Used according to directions, chlorine bleach, pine oil, phenolic or quaternary disinfectants will kill harmful bacteria.

Chlorine bleach reacts with ammonia and with acid cleaners such as toilet bowl cleaners and rust removers to form a dangerous and irritating gas. Never mix chlorine bleach or a product containing it with other cleaners.

You can clean all floors, except cork and wood, with water. If badly soiled or if wax has built up, mop with a mild detergent solution or a wax remover diluted according to directions.

Use water base wax on rubber and asphalt tile floors.

For vinyl floors that require wax; linoleum, terrazzo and concrete floors,

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use a water base or a solvent cleaning and polishing wax.

Wood and cork floors should be cleaned with solvent cleaning and polishing wax. Paste wax offers the best protection.

Rub heel marks and streaks with a small amount of the appropriate wax on a nylon scrub pad or very fine steel wool.

Spray waxes may be used on furniture where a shine is desired. Liquid cleaning wax used periodically protects some furniture. For antique or very fine furniture, use paste wax or lemon oil.

A homemade cleaner for wood is: 1 part gum turpentine and 3 parts boiled linseed oil.

To clean and shine surfaces such as countertops, ceramic tile, cabinets and appliances, use a creamy cleaning wax.

When choosing tools for cleaning, only two types are necessary: one to soften and remove moist soil which has hardened on washable surfaces and one to loosen and remove dirt and dust.

Basic tools needed for washable surfaces include a wet mop, sponges or cloths, containers for water and toilet-bowl brush.

Wet mops are made of cotton or cellulose sponge. Shop for a lightweight, smooth handle that is comfortable to hold. The handle should attach firmly to the mophead. A string mop should have lintless, long staple cotton in four or more ply yarns. A sponge mop should be refillable.

Look for a mop on which the wooden or metal base of the mophead is recessed, rounded or padded to prevent scarring baseboards and furniture. Some mops have a device for squeezing out the water.

Another house cleaning tool is the sponge. Select one that fits your hand, yet holds enough moisture to cover a fairly large area.

A lintless cloth is very satisfactory for cleaning. Paper cloths, cheesecloth, worn diapers or cotton undershirts can be used. Chamois is excellent for washing windows because it cleans and polishes at the same time.

Two containers for water are desir-

able—one for a cleaning solution and one for rinsing. Durable plastic buckets are easier to handle than aluminum or galvanized iron.

Circular or ball-shaped toilet-bowl brushes are made of stiff animal, plant or synthetic bristles and fibers twisted in a rustless wire. Those fastened around a wood ball are more difficult to keep sanitary as the wood absorbs water. Bristle brushes do not drip after the water is shaken out.

You may choose to buy an electrical appliance to scrub floors that dispenses the cleaning solution then picks it back up. Or you may choose the electric floor machine that can scrub, refinish or polish floors. You may also want an appliance designed for shampooing rugs and carpets. This appliance dispenses dry foam over the pile and down between the fibers without soaking the carpet fabric.

When choosing an electrical appliance that uses water be sure that both the appliance and the cord have the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) seal of approval.

Basic tools to lift and remove loose dry dirt and dust may be as simple as a vacuum cleaner and attachments.

There are three basic types of vacuum cleaners. When deciding on a vacuum cleaner know what you expect to clean. Then choose the one best suited to your needs.

The canister/tank type cleans from suction produced by a motor driven fan. The suction pulls the litter and dust into the dust bag. This type cleaner is lightweight and good for general floor care, as well as above-the-floor cleaning.

The upright vacuum cleaner has both agitation and suction. The suction lifts the rug against the nozzle. The brushes and/or beater bars vibrate the dirt and litter loose from the rug where the air flow can carry it into the dust bag.

For cleaning carpets and rugs, an upright cleaner does a superior job. Most upright cleaners have attachments for cleaning above the floor. When using the attachments, insert the hose into the machine to divert the suction to the tool used.

The combination vacuum cleaner takes the suction of the canister/tank and the powered agitator head of the upright, and combines them. This is done by adding a powered rug nozzle to the canister/tank models.

If you want a dual approach to cleaning, you will need both a canister/tank and an upright or a combination.

Other makes and models of vacuum cleaners include the small hand or portable model for small jobs, the stick broom for general floor care, and the built-in system.

The built-in system consists of a power unit with a dirt-collecting container located outside the living area. The container is connected to dirt-carrying tubes which open into various walls in the home. A long, flexible hose with numerous attachments can be plugged into the covered outlets to silently and efficiently clean all areas of the home. The central system is the most expensive vacuum cleaning equipment and has the advantage of no recirculation of dirt, no machine to pull around, and little equipment to store.

Another type of cleaner filters collected dust and dirt through water, which is automatically flushed down a drain. It can also be used as a wet pick-up device, as well as for regular dry vacuum cleaning.

A vacuum cleaner may seem expensive in comparison to other cleaning tools which may be used to replace it. However, the vacuum cleaner does a superior job of cleaning.

Be sure to read the vacuum cleaner guarantee. Make sure the manufacturer has a reputation for making reliable products.

Manual tools that clean are the carpet sweeper, dust mop, dustcloth, broom and dustpan.

If you have rugs and no vacuum cleaner, a carpet sweeper does a good job of removing surface litter and dust. It cannot remove dirt between the fibers. It is an effective quick pick-up to use in combination with a vacuum cleaner for rug cleaning.

When selecting a dust mop look for one that will pick up and hold dust.

Choose one that has a removable, washable mophead and lint-free fibers. If oil or wax-treated mops are chosen, store the mophead in an air-tight metal container to avoid a fire hazard.

Dustcloths must be absorbent, clean and lint-free. You can purchase treated dustcloths or make one from a soft cloth.

Spread a few drops of furniture oil or wax in a tin container or jar. Insert a cloth and cover tightly overnight. The cloth will absorb enough oil or wax to remove dust and polish at the same time. (For dusting waxed surfaces, do not use oil because it softens the finish).

Brooms come in a variety of sizes, weights and fibers. Choose a broom that is lightweight with a smooth, long handle. Look for a mixture of curly and rough fibers stitched together at the top. The fibers should have short, split ends.

Push brooms scatter less dust than a regular broom. Those made of horse hair are excellent for use on floors. Fiber bristles are more effective for sweeping large areas, such as garages and walks.



Before purchasing new tools, consider questions such as:

- Would it be used enough to justify the cost?
- How many kinds of jobs will it do?
- Is it easy to operate, carry and store?
- Would it save more time than another piece of equipment?
- Is it safe to operate?